



Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

MAY 2016

Hi there, maybe we can say spring/summer is here...maybe as the weather keeps surprising us! But something that's for certain: the club now has a Hoop House.

For two years now the Steering Committee has been discussing the issue. As you may recall, the club's hostas have been at Megan's backyard, who has been super kind to let our plants sit there. Even more to her kindness: the fact that the plants are with nematodes...You should know that they have been treated NemaKill this past fall so we are waiting to see if it was or not effective.

Two years ago, when we discovered the problem, Chuck & Jim took the initiative to buy new plants, find a place where to keep & maintain them; got them ready for sale at the Hosta Show & Whispering Pines—SUPER JOB!

DJ was super nice to winterized our plants at his nursery & Quality Nursery allow us to keep the plants at their place for a few months, while the plants were growing for sale at the hosta show.

But there was still the issue that if we keep buying plants, where to keep during winter, taking care of potting & repotting, watering, etc. There was discussion on distributing the plants among foster members but you can imagine the paper work that would be.

Along came Gary & Susan Gahagan & told the Steering Committee that we could keep the hoop house at their place—what? Are you sure? No kidding?

Not only at their place but Gary took it as a project & got prices, types of hoop houses, etc. DJ also help & bought it for us at his price. It was delivered to Gary's & he, his brothers—Bob & Dan, Stephen, Jim, Megan & her husband Andrew; they all put in time to put it together & without instructions! Just know that it was an adventure for everyone involved.

And then we got the plants & had a potting party & all the plants are now in a brand new DHSWP Hoop House!

What follows are the photos of the project.

I don't think I need to say much more. Take a look....

Alicia, the Pres

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Preplanning Your Hosta Show Exhibits

A couple of years ago, Chuck O. put out an excellent list of things to remember when planning your hosta show exhibits.

Here's a second printing to remind members and introduce new members to the art of planning for the June 4th show.

Long before it's time to groom your hosta leaves for the show, you can do some preplanning to make the job and decisions more manageable.



- Begin by identifying potential leaves early in the season. A few strolls through the gardens can help you select those eye-popping plants that are sure to give you some great leaf specimens to exhibit.
- You can ensure top quality leaves by protecting them from falling debris and critter damage by covering them with some light-weight netting.
- Frost damage can be eliminated by using frost cloth or sheets.
- Slug bait should be broadcast early in the season to prevent slugs and snails from damaging the leaves.
- When selecting your leaves, cut the stem close to the plant base at a 45° angle to expose more surface area. This will allow for maximum water

absorption which is critical to the health and vigor of the leaf.

- Only select those mature leaves that are located on the outside perimeter of the plant. Although the inner leaves may appear to be more appealing, their immaturity will eventually lead to droopiness due to insufficient substance. Size and true color can also be limiting factors as the leaf will have not reached it's full growth potential.
- Avoid selecting leaves that have holes, blemishes, tears, and any evidence of critter damage.

A few tips on how to avoid the rush of selecting, collecting, and grooming your chosen candidates:

- Leaves can be picked several days before the show. Place them in a cool water bath to help preserve their rigidity. The 45° angle which you made at the base of the leaf will allow for more water absorption.
- The best case scenario is that you now have the time to rescan your specimens for the most pristine leaves, as well as beginning the grooming process at home.
- Grooming techniques can be found in the show booklet and 'at the elbow' help that will be available during the prep time on Friday from 4 till 7 o'clock.
- Getting a head start for us means taking the exhibits to market in a container of your choice (adding water, of course) and doing a final inspection before staging your exhibit in test tubes and vases.
- I have seen many exhibitors bring in an overwhelming amount of leaves that have not had an initial grooming, only to find they cannot meet the time restraints.
- Label the leaves and if possible fill out the exhibit tags ahead of time. It all saves time and frustration and you can better enjoy the show and share the experience with others.

Sandy Ellenberger -- Education Chair

Tidbits on Moss

Sandy Ellenberger, Education Chair

Moss Milkshake to Grow Moss

To transplant moss try this gardener's trick. Crumble a tuft of moss with soil attached in a blender. Add equal parts water and buttermilk, and process until the mixture is the consistency of cream soup (add more water if necessary). Spread the mixture where you want moss to grow. Keep the area moist until the moss is established. *From "Landscaping with Stone" by Pat Sagui*

Want to Eliminate Moss

Moss isn't always desirable. If you want to discourage moss on your stonework, apply a diluted solution of hydrogen peroxide (1/2 c. Of 3% hydrogen peroxide to gallon water) to all the stone faces until they are wet. Reapply the solution as needed to keep the surface wet for two minutes. If necessary, rinse to remove any residue. *From "Landscaping with Stone" by Pat Sagui*

2016 Daffodil Show Report

Bonnie & Steve Plato, VP Daffodil

At last year's show, our 2015 Daffodil Show, we had 161 Entries, 17 Exhibitors, and 199 Stems. Fewer Exhibitors, but more Entries and Stems this year (see the 2016 Show Report below). Our goal to improve our Show includes increasing all those numbers as well as raising the quality of the blooms and our grooming and staging techniques and abilities.

With the early high temperatures, and the exceptionally changeable weather patterns this season, many possible exhibitors' daffodils were finished blooming before the date of our show. If we can influence the Penn State Extension to schedule their event for the third weekend of April, that would be ideal for a Daffodil Show in our region!



Bonnie & Steve Plato

Hopefully there will be more exhibitors able to enter blooms next year, especially if we get a more typical spring AND if members take advantage of DHSWP's Daffodil Bulb Sale later this year. We plan on offering bulbs to cover the entire Daffodil Show bloom season from Very Early, Early, Early-Mid season, Mid-season, Late Mid-season, Late, and Very Late. And everything in between! Whatever the 2017 season brings, people should have some blooms.

No excuses. Please note, the "Hints and Tips on showing Daffodils" hand-outs have a lot of excellent ideas to help Exhibitors enter some blooms. Larry Grundler kept some of his entries in the refrigerator for two and a half weeks! It works!

Plan on trying some of these ideas and techniques to help you enter a few or more daffodils next year.

A BIG THANK YOU to all our Exhibitors and our Volunteers whose hard work made our Daffodil Show such a success.

- ADS Gold Ribbon; Local Awards - 1. Best of Show, and 2. Best Standard Single Stem, both sponsored by DHSWP: **Mark Gresh** for N. 'Greek Surprise ' 4W-O
- ADS Miniature Gold Ribbon; Local Award - Dianne Mrak Award for best miniature daffodil in show, sponsored by DHSWP: **Megan Danik** for N. 'Baby Boomer ' 7Y-Y
- ADS White Ribbon; for Best 3 Stems of a standard daffodil in the show: **Bobbie Diller** for N. 'Curly Lace' 11a Y-Y
- ADS Small Growers Award: **Lynn Lang** for N. 'Segovia' 3W-Y
- ADS Best Historic Bloom Award; Local Award - for best Historic Bloom in show, sponsored by Joe Hamm: **Lynn Hoffman** for N. 'Mrs. R.O. Backhouse' 2W-P, 1921
- ADS Historic 3 Stems Award (ADS Historic Best of Three Ribbon): **Lynn Hoffman** for N. 'Mrs. R.O. Backhouse ' 2W-P, 1921
- ADS Classic 3 -Stem Ribbon: **Drew Leister** for N. 'Fortissimo' 2Y-O 1964
- ADS Classic Best Bloom (ADS Best Classic Single-Stem Ribbon) and ADS Best Classic Daffodil Ribbon: **Drew Leister** for N. 'Fortissimo' 2Y-O, 1964
- ADS Best Intermediate Award (ADS Intermediate Single - Stem Ribbon); Local Award - Berma Abercrombie Award for best Intermediate daffodil in the show, sponsored by Jeannie Rowles: **Mark Gresh** for N. 'Scarlet Tanager' 2Y-R
- Local Award - Dan Tau Award for Best White with a pink cup or pink rimmed daffodil in the show, sponsored by Dianne Mrak: **Larry Grundler** for N. 'Drama Queen' 11aW-YPW
- ADS Intermediate 3 Stems Award (ADS Intermediate Three - Stem Ribbon): **Lynn Hoffman** for N. 'Barbie Doll' 2W-WPW
- ADS Silver Ribbon for the most First Place ribbons; Local Award - Sweepstakes Award for most blue ribbons, sponsored by DHSWP: **Lynn Hoffman** for 27 blue ribbons
- ADS Maroon Ribbon for best collection of 5 reverse bicolors: **Lynn Hoffman** for N. 'Singing Hills' 7YYW-W, N. 'Intrique' 7Y-W, N. 'Lemon Brook' 2YYW-W, N. 'Half Caye' 2YWW-WWY, N. 'Pengarth' 2YWW-WWY
- 1. ADS Red, White, and Blue Ribbon for best collection of 5 different standard cultivars of American Breeding and the 2. ADS Purple Ribbon for the best collection of

5 stems in the Horticulture Section: **Mark Gresh** for his collection of N. 'Nordic Rim' 3W-WWY, by Grant E. Mitsch, N. 'Emerald Empire' 2W-WPW by Havens, N. 'Scarlet Tanager' 2Y-R by Havens, N. 'Quick Bells' 5W-W by Gaylon, N. 'Lady Alice' 7Y-Y by Havens

- ADS Marie Bozievich Award for the best collection of 12 different standard cultivars and/or species from at least 4 RHS divisions: **Lynn Hoffman** for his collection of N. 'Quick Bells' 5W-W, N. 'Lemon Sprite' 7YY-W, N. 'Continental Divide' 11aY-O, N. 'Laughing Bird Caye' 1YYW-Y, N. 'Tasgem' 4Y-Y, N. 'White Passion' 2W-R, N. 'Clavicord' 11a Y-W, N. 'Stepchild' 6YYW-GPP, N. 'Honey Orange' 2O-R, N. 'Panache' 1W-W, N. 'Gold Convention' 2Y-Y, N. 'Rosevine' 3 Y-WPP
- Best Novice Award for an unknown daffodil 2 W-P (the Amateur Section for a Daffodil without a known name): **Bonnie Plato**
- Local Award for best Club Flower, sponsored by DHSWP: **Larry Grundler** for N. 'Pittsburgh Someplace Special' 2W-P
- New Zealand Award consisting of 2 New Zealand daffodil bulbs (N. 'Standout ' 3W-YYR, and N. 'Loyal Knight ' 2Y-YOR), sponsored by Spud Brogdon: **Mark Gresh** for N. 'Polar Sky' 2 W-WWP *Note: This Award was added after the Show Schedule was printed when we received these bulbs.*

- Local Award - Gary Ball Award for the best white daffodil in the show, sponsored by Gary Ball: **Mark Gresh** for N. 'Perfect Peace' 2W-WPW



Mark Gresh with his winning daffodils on the background.

- Local Award - Rowles Family Award for the best yellow with a pink cup in the show: **Lynn Hoffman** for N. 'American Heritage' 1YYW-P

We had 181 entries from 15 exhibitors for a total of 306 stems. There were no entries in the Container Grown Daffodils Section or the Design Section, in addition to the Photography Section.

Mark Your Calendar!—Upcoming Events

- May 14 Saturday Meeting with Brent Heath from Brent and Becky's bulbs, Northland Library**
- May 28 – 29 Sat – Sun Members 10% Off Pre Sale, at the new Club's Hoop House¹**
- June 4..... Saturday Hosta Show & Sales** at Soergels. Sales start at 10 AM, Show opens to the public around 1:30 PM (after judging)
- June 11 – 12 Sat – Sun BUS TRIP** 2 day trip to Toledo & Michigan!
- June 15 – 18 Wed – Sat National Hosta Convention, St Louis, MO**
- June 18 – 19 Sat – Sun Whispering Pines Hosta Sale**
- July 8 – 9 Fri – Sat, Great Lakes Region, Tailgate Party, Akron, OH**
- July 16 Saturday From 12 Noon, Picnic & Hosta Auction**
at DJ's Greenhouse

¹ Gary & Susan Gahagan's home: 105 White Rock Rd, Freeport PA 16229, 724-295-9107

HOSTA SHOW JUNE 4, 2016

This oddball winter and spring had us a little concerned about the quality of leaves we would have for the upcoming show. Even with the several cold days in April that had us worried about frost damage I only had one Hosta show serious damage. Most plants had minimal or no damage and are doing very well. With everything growing and the weather warming it is not too soon to start looking at your possible show entries.

The show is on track, committee chairs are in place all we need now are volunteers to help pull it all together. Last year we had many enthusiastic new faces helping which made for a show that was a lot of fun. We will once again need volunteers for everything from set up Friday evening June 3rd to tear down the afternoon of June 4th. For those of you who worked the show in past years come join us again, if you have not worked a show in the past come and help out and see what makes our show a success.

Friday and Saturday help will be needed to accomplish the following tasks:

On Friday:

- Hostas for the sale will need transported from the Hoop House to Soergel's (come to the pre-sale and see what we have to offer). The logistics for this still need worked out.
- Starting at 5:00 P.M. setup for the show will begin and we will work till completed.
- Entries will be accepted registered and placed 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Saturday we will get an early start:

- After coffee and pastries, entries will be accepted 8:00 A.M. - 10:30 AM, with Show Judging starting at 11:00 A.M.
- The sales area and membership table will need to be staffed.
- Volunteers for Registration and Placement will be needed.
- Nine Clerks will be needed to assist the judges and help tally results. We will even need an individual to take lunch orders for the show personal.

Additional details will be out shortly, if you are interested in helping with the show contact either Jim Kalka or Megan Danik:

Jim Kalka Show Chair maejrk@comcast.net

Megan Danik Show Vice-Chair mad.danik@gmail.com

REGISTRATION MAKE EASIER

Hint # 1: bring along some preprinted return address labels (2 per entry). The ones you get as a gift from various organizations. This saves you from having to write out by hand your name & address twice per entry.

Hint # 2: Take the time to go to the American Hosta Society website & open.

http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Hosta%20Judging/2015_show_classification_full_list.pdf

Look up the Hostas you will be entering, you will need the following information: Division, Section, Class, Registered leaf length & width & Variety

Hint # 3: Copy & paste the information (for each Hosta you are entering) into a word document. Print it out & you have all the information needed for registration. Saves you time & it is an efficient way for doing multiple entries.

Hint # 4: While you are on the American Hosta Society website go to the Show Judging section there are three articles you may be interested in reading:

[Sample leaf Show Preparation](#)

[Cut Leaf Pandemonium](#)

[It's Show Time](#)

Good luck, see you at the show
Jim Kalka & Megan Danik

2016 FALL HOSTA FORUM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th

Plus Dinner & Program, Friday night – 9/16/16
Edinboro University – 219 Meadville Street, Edinboro, PA



The Daffodil and Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania and Western New York Hosta Society are happy to present the **nineteenth** Annual Fall Hosta Forum. You will notice (for those who have been regulars) that we are no longer at the Riverside Inn. Our Pittsburgh partners worked very hard in locating an alternate venue and a few years ago, we moved to the Frank G. Pogue Student Center at Edinboro University, Edinboro, PA. It exceeded our expectations and with the small inconvenience of having to move between hotel and venue, we are thrilled with our new digs.

In this new venue, everything takes place in one enormous room – talks, vending and auctions. It has worked like a dream and so our Forum has entered a new era.

Furthermore, we have worked out a deal with the Edinboro COMFORT SUITES, 1007 Market Place Drive, Edinboro, PA 16412, (814 969-7000) to hold a block of rooms for us @ \$109/night plus taxes. We will host a Hospitality Room there on Friday night for those who stay. **We suggest you book ASAP if you plan on staying.** We will be funding hospitality with a raffled "basket 'o cheer".

This year's theme is based on why we love hostas and their shady friends to begin with.... Because they are just ROCKIN' fine plants. They make our hearts sing, our feet tap and sometimes you just can't sit still.... So this is:

A ROCKIN' FALL FORUM

So... for those who don't remember (or have never been), here are the details

Enclosed is the brochure and registration form that should be returned immediately (and certainly no later than September 5th). The rockin' fee for the day is \$65 – but if you donate an auction item worth \$20 or more (or items... remember, this benefits the Societies and helps to keep prices down), then the registration fee is only \$55! This fabulous deal includes 4 swinging programs, lunch, access to lots of excellent vendors and a chance to score at the auction. **NOTICE THAT WE PUSHED BACK THE STARTING TIME A TAD TO ALLOW FOLKS TO TRAVEL IN THAT MORNING IF THEY SO DESIRE.**

"I know it's only rock and roll, but I like it."

However, since so many people do come in Friday night and stay, we have added a Friday night element along with a light, pizza and salad, dinner. **THIS WILL ALSO OCCUR AT THE UNIVERSITY.** We will then host a Hospitality Room at the Comfort Inn for those who have booked in there.

And don't forget the "wheelers and dealers"! We will have the usual high-quality blend of vendors with our usual array of exciting plant and garden items. This year we expect the usual suspects – Eagle Bay Hostas, DJ's Greenhouse and anyone else we can scoop up.

For those who attend the Friday night vendor preview, you will be receiving a \$5 voucher – redeemable at our vendors, just for being you. Make a weekend of it and get your reservations in today – space is limited! **NOTE: If you plan on Friday night, make your reservations NOW! The Comfort is holding our room block only till AUGUST 19th, or until they sell out... whichever happens first!**

And finally.... If you say you're bringing an auction item, two requests.... We're asking you to make it something worthy of an auction, and we're counting on you to **honor your word** (and to tell us in advance). We've experienced a few glitches so if you show up empty handed when we counted on you, we will ask you to ante up.....

Maybe money can't 'buy you love', but it sure can get you some SWEET plants

2016 REGISTRATION
FALL HOSTA FORUM
ROCKIN' HOSTA FORUM

Saturday, September 17th
 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Complete and return with check payable to: **FALL HOSTA FORUM**

Karen Schmidt, Registrar

Fall Hosta Forum

111 N. Benbrook Road

Butler, PA 16001 (karensmg@aol.com)



**REGISTRATION
 MUST BE RECEIVED
 BY 9/2/16**

Name #1 (list additional persons below)

Address

City/State

zip

Area code/phone number

e-mail

Name #2

Enclosed please find \$ _____ for _____ registrations (add \$25 pp for Friday dinner/voucher)

NOTE: US CASH OR CHECK ONLY – PAYABLE TO FALL HOSTA FORUM

- Check here if you are bringing an item (INTRIGUING hosta or other interesting item) valued at **\$20 or more** (one per registration – **AND PLEASE, WE DO COUNT ON YOU!**)

Registration is \$65 per person **UNLESS** you bring an item as above... then \$55 per person

- Please let us know if you will be arriving Friday night for vendor preview plus pizza & salad*, so that we can make the necessary reservations and arrangements – 6:30 pm dinner (\$25 pp, reservations REQUIRED). *Note - \$25 price includes only our costs; food, room rental, staff and voucher **note: no refunds after September 1st due to our own obligations**

DONATIONS

Please list donations so that we can prepare an auction list in advance

1. _____

3. _____

2. _____

4. _____

DIVISION I - HORTICULTURAL - CUT LEAF SHOW: MORE TIPS!

PREPLANNING YOUR LEAF EXHIBITS ... 'Getting a Head Start'

1. Stroll through your gardens and select those eye-popping plants that are sure to give you some great leaf specimens.
2. Protect leaves from falling debris and critter damage by covering them with light weight netting.
3. Eliminate the chance of frost damage by covering with frost cloth or sheets.
4. Broadcast slug bait early in the spring to prevent slug and snail damage.

SELECTING YOUR SPECIMENS ... 'Getting Down and Dirty'

1. Select mature leaves located on the outside perimeter of the plant.
2. Cut the stem close to the base at a 45° angle. This allows for maximum water absorption which is critical to the vigor of the leaf.
3. Avoid leaves that have holes, blemishes, tears, and evidence of critter damage.

PREPARING YOUR SPECIMENS! ... 'Cleaning up your Act'

1. Leaves can be picked several days before the show. Place them in a cool water bath to preserve their rigidity.
2. Begin the grooming process at home. Techniques for grooming and cleaning can be found in the show booklet. Getting a head start means you've done an initial grooming and now a final inspection can be done before staging them in the appropriate test tube or vase.
3. To save time label the leaves and fill out the exhibit tags prior to the show. Show rules now requires you to enter the leaf size (length x width) on the show card. Classification lists will be available at the show to help.

JUDGING YOUR SPECIMENS! ... 'Here Come the Judges'

The judges will be looking for the following while judging the exhibits.

1. FORM - Form and shape are true to the variety.
2. SIZE - The leaf meets the size qualifications as found in the classification list.
3. COLOR AND PATTERN - Color and pattern should be typical of the variety. Mottling and streaking must be uniform (symmetry) and attractive.
4. TEXTURE - is the surface quality of the leaf such as ribbed, puckered, or silken gleam. The lack of normal feel or appearance is a fault.
5. CONDITIONING AND GROOMING - Wilting, flabbiness, disease, insect holes, and dirt are faults. Cleanliness and a well trimmed stem would indicate good grooming.
6. SUBSTANCE - Applies to the firmness and rigidity of the leaf and petiole. Leaf should be: firm, strong, crisp.
7. LABELING - The exhibit should be correctly labeled and the entry tag correctly filled out. Make sure to add the leafs dimensions (length X width) as this is a new requirement for this years show.

MOST COMMON FAULTS AS VIEWED BY THE JUDGES! 'Looking it over and checking it twice'

1. Conditioning/Grooming - leaves are dirty, damaged by insects, and holes are evident. Care should be taken to remove dirt from leaves with puckers or deep veins.
2. Size - immature leaves are selected.
3. Color and Pattern - left side of leaf does not match right side, lacks symmetry.
4. Substance - leaf lacks firmness and rigidity. Droopiness is due to insufficient substance.
5. Form - avoid leaves that are misshapen due to insect, rodent, and weather conditions. Leaves should be attractive, fully developed, not frail or immature.

NOTE...Help will be available for grooming leaves during the prep time on Friday, June 5th from 5-7 PM. This is a learning opportunity as well as a fun activity. If you are a novice (first time exhibitor), bringing only a few leaves to exhibit will help you overcome your entry anxiety and you could very well go home with an award and bragging rights.

See you at the DHSWP Hosta Show on June 4th at Soergels Orchards, 2573 Brandt School Rd, Wexford, PA 15090

Good Luck, Chuck O

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
HOSTA PRE-SALE WITH A 10% DISCOUNT
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 28 & 29



The DHSWP is happy to announce an opportunity for members to receive a 10% discount during a two-day presale. Not only will members receive this discount on your entire purchase, but you'll also have access to inventory before it is offered to the general public at various events.

Come see the brand new CLUB HOOP HOUSE and shop from 9 AM to 4 PM Saturday and Sunday, May 28 & 29. At Gary & Susan Gahagan's home: 105 White Rock Rd, Freeport PA 16229, 724-295-9107

We are excited to offer a very nice selection this year; an email list will soon be available, so watch for it and make your decisions. We bet you're going to have trouble deciding; if you're like me, you'll want one of each!

Cash and checks will be accepted. No credit cards at this time.

Remember, this is a two-day sale & the only time this year a discount will be offered.